

Jesus the First Fruits

1 Corinthians 15:20-34

Christians **in** corrupt, pagan city of Corinth had adopted bad doctrine & morally compromised lifestyles. Doctrine of resurrection was in question--the centerpiece of Gospel: *Jesus died for sins, buried & raised third day from the dead. 1 Cor 15:3,4*

Some saying '*no resurrection*'--others had **weird** doctrine of "*baptism for the dead*". Paul proved the gospel true by #1 the life of Corinth converts '*old pass away all things become new*' --*transformed life*. #2 OT prophets spoke of Christ coming, dying & rising again. #3 Appearance of glorified-resurrected Jesus—12 times w/ 500 at one time—*go ask them they are eye witnesses*. Paul: *I'm the greatest witness of all, once a persecutor now an apostle.*

*20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the **first fruits** of those who are asleep.*

Jesus first one raised *first fruits* others to follow. At Passover He dealt w/ sin by dying—When He rose, death conquered—He *first fruits* of all who believe & follow in resurrection.

Jesus rose first day of week Sunday--the day after Sabbath Saturday--the day after Passover Friday--Jesus crucified.

Leviticus 23:9-14 first fruits offering—celebration of harvest--Priest waves sheaf before Lord day after Sabbath or Sunday represents whole harvest.

Secular idea: Entry fee into an event back stage pass. Jesus--*first fruits* of resurrection—He paid our **entry fee** to resurrected life—for all who believe. He resurrected HP *first fruits* offering & we His harvest.

*21 For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as **in Adam all die**, so also in **Christ all shall be made alive**.*

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Adam all die--In the day you eat you shall surely die...Adam where are you.

Disobeyed God & obeyed Satan. *Just as thru one man sin entered the world & death thru sin & so death spread to all men because all sinned Rom 5:12*

In Christ all made alive....*because I live you shall live also Jn 14:19*

Jn 10:10 “The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly.

All made alive Double meaning--some resurrected **life**-others to **damnation**.

John 5:28..... *for a hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, 29 and will come out: those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.*

23 *But each in his own order: Christ the **first fruits**, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,*

Some will say Jesus not first--He raised others--Lazarus John 11 & others & OT Elijah raised widows son 1Kings 17—resuscitations

Jesus *first fruits* or first of bodily resurrection--after others to follow in order.

There is an order to the resurrection--*Martha 'I know he (Lazarus) will rise again in the resurrection on the last day'*—**general resurrection** a traditional view of Jews. Jesus says **specifics** **Jn 5:25** *Truly, truly, I say to you, a time is coming and even now has arrived, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.* Hear Jesus voice-rise from dead-in order

New body not limited by natural laws confining us. When Jesus rose he appeared & disappeared not limited to time & space or earthly dimensions.

Scientist say 10 dimensions

First order after he raised--saints in Jerusalem.

Matt 27: *the earth shook; & the rocks were split, 52 and the tombs were opened; & many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; 53 & coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city & appeared to many.*

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Then those asleep & alive at Rapture **1Thes 4:13-18**

Then tribulation martyrs **Rev 20:4-6**

Finally those destined lake fire **Rev 20:11-16**

John 5:28b,29...all who are in the grave will hear His voice, 29 and will come out: those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

24 then comes the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies **under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death. 27 For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him. 28 And when all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, that God may be all in all.**

Millennial kingdom--Jesus reigns 1000 yrs on earth--**Rev 20** We reign w/ Him--called **mille** 1000 Lat **annum** year. **Final** rebellion **Rev 20:7-10** Christ puts down—**lost** raised & judged & cast into lake fire along death & hell--**last** enemy put under His feet.

Jesus turns kingdom over to Father & eternal state begins w/ **new** heaven & **new** earth **Rev 21-22**

Jesus now reigns from heaven—Redemption is complete—Possession is imminent. All authority under his feet **Ps 110**, **Eph 1:20-23** Devil has limited power-God sets boundaries. Mans will limited to Gods authority-Jesus enthroned **Ps 2**

29 Otherwise, what will those do who are **baptized for the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why then are they baptized for them? 30 Why are we also in danger every hour? 31 I protest, brethren, by the boasting in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. 32 If from human motives I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus, what does it profit me? If the dead are not raised, LET US EAT AND DRINK, FOR TOMORROW WE DIE.**

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Strange teaching attributed to likes of Cerinthus a Gnostic heretic. Mormon 1840 erroneously practice based on this passage. No doctrinal basis.

Can't happen—ritual won't save. Bad doctrine gives absurd yet evidence resurrection. *Titus 1 12 One of Crete's own prophets has said it: "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons."* ^c *13 This saying is true.*

We are saved by grace thru faith a gift of God not by works... 11th hour salvation thief on cross, death bed conversion w/ no baptism. ***By grace thru faith***

Beasts figuratively of violent-wild opposers to the faith. **Used of Gladiators in arena.** Fact of resurrection is Paul's motivation for evangelism.

33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals." **34 Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.**

Bad doctrine & practice will corrupt spiritual life. ***Hang out w/ a skunk you'll smell like a skunk.*** You are what you spiritually eat & think & hang w/. . Intoxicated w/ error they excused & rationalized bad behavior--if no resurrection not have to face consequences for misspent life of sin.

Rom 12:1 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.